

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

AN ANTIQUATED GODDESS.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

HERE has been one species of philatelic torture which seems to have run its brief life, and with the last grace possible, under the circumstances, let us retire it to the "realms from which no wanderer returns."

I refer to that superannuated figure which has been supposed to represent, or misrepresent, our fair Goddess during her existence.

During the rise and fall of representative stamp journals of their day, how often those weakened features and wasted forms of Philatelia have shone forth from the engraved covers.

And an eyesore they have been! Take the old "collector's ledger" with its standing figure of philatelia, her right arm tortured and twisted, clasping close that bulging album of treasures.

Ye Gods! What a sight! Give one glance at the figure represented on the old "*Rhode Island Philatelist*," and later on the "*Philatelic Era*," that far-away, listless expression in her deep-sunken eyes is enough to drive one to drink. And the original prototype, the figure on the earlier issues of the "*Philatelic Journal of America*." God grant that the philatelist of the future may not be tortured as we have been.

Then the triumphant figure of Philatelia as displayed on the lately departed, but never to be forgotten "*Missouri Philatelist*," that long flowing hair which the western zephyrs had blown back over her shoulders, that decollete costume, the half-startled expression. Rejoice that it is with us no more!

Have we been worshipping at the shrine of such an unpleasing personality? Then all my fond hopes have flown, and I shall "hang my harp on the willow tree and off to the wars again."

In her dreams we have thought her young and fair, gracious and gentle, loving and lovable, yet it would require a vivid imagination to picture this emblem as an embodiment of these virtues.

But it seems that we are to be relieved of this dire affliction which the passing years has thrust upon us. The old idea must give way to the new, just as all old ideas do. Our friend Mekeel has set the example and what do we see?

Well it is not artistic, but it is at least modern. Instead of an imaginary personage, wholly devoid of expression, loveliness of grace, we have a modern Philatelia, an every-day maiden; you can see hundreds bearing a resemblance to her in your daily walks.

Then this bright, young Westerner who has come among us to share our good and ill, the *Philatelist*, of Denver, Colo., has presented us with a most-welcomed figure, that of a young knight of the realm with album opened before him, and an expression of delight o'erspreading his face as he views his collection so nearly complete, yet can we not see a bit of wistfulness there, that he may possess those three coveted specimens for the lower corner?

Truly there has been a re-action and it is highly pleasing to contemplate. Let us have more of these modern representations, and less of those hackneyed figures typical to philatelic research and exploration.

Would it not be far better to retire that globe which is getting a trifle antique, and instead, place at the right-hand a perforation gauge, a magnifying glass and a color chart? We may reasonably expect to "get out of the rut" after a time, and present to the world a figure, queenly in form and figure, typical of our science and its followers. Let the good work go on.

THE AGITATOR IN PHILATELY.

BY W. CULLEN BROWN.

PHILATELY has thousands of different natures amongst her ranks. It is my purpose in this paper to deal with one of these many classes; a class, which it is at first thought difficult to determine whether their adherence is to be appreciated or dislained.

Philately is a school of politics. A government that had no opposition to oppose its measures, would, strictly speaking, be anything but political. The opposition is a necessary part in politics, and in the ruling of a nation. It prevents, in a measure, corruption. It prevents a sameness of procedure and action, and, as a result, gives us variety, and such exercise of our talents for debate which might otherwise be limited. The opposition is usually in the minority; when it obtains a majority it is no longer the opposition but the government. Its case may be either right or wrong; because its supporters are in the minority it does not necessarily follow that their policy is poor.

Now other agitators, or the opposition in the philatelic school of politics, are quite different from ordinary philatelists. The governing class in philately are decidedly an easy-going lot. They become collectors, and take things as they find them. They consider: "The things which our forefathers had are sufficiently good for us." They sail along in the same groove from one year's end to another. No reform!

The agitator is not so. Improvement, progress, free trade, in thought and action, is his policy. He owns that in the past philately's trade has been good and firm, yet he looks forward to greater things in the future, and not only looks forward but works forward. He does not conceive of a good thing and keep it locked up in the secret recesses of his heart as a speculation, but lets his fellow collectors share in his benefits. The agitator is no monopolist!

Has not the rise of specialism been wonderful? How many years since one might as well expect to find a needle 'n a haystack as a specialist? Yet how great a transformation has been made through the agitation of a few, very few specialists who first formed the opposition to general collecting. And now the strength of the opposition is such that it is indeed difficult to determine whether specialists are at present on the opposition, or whether they form the government. Specialism has to-day the support of the most powerful and influential philatelists. It is regarded as the most feasible and lucrative method of collecting.

The rise of specialism is but a single instance of the power which the agitator attains, and the influence toward progress which he very often brings forward to stimulate philately's growth. I do not write this paper for the purpose of creating a "kicking" tendency. My object is to urge collectors to conquer the "dumb spirit." Do not keep to yourself anything which may benefit others. Do not make your mind a miser!

The agitator is not always correct, you say; yes, that is, I admit, true. Yet on the truth, the value of his views, their success depends. If they are empty, devoid of usefulness, little notice will be taken of them; but, on the other hand, whenever they possess merit, rest assured, they will not long remain unnoticed. The philatelic world are always ready to weigh carefully anything for their benefit, and on its merits the result rests. In conclusion, do not have any bring forward anything which does not deserve consideration. Look before you leap! If your views possess true merit, depend philatelists will receive them in accordance with their value.